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QUADRENNIAL REPORTS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, CATEGORIES I AND II

Quadrennial reports, 1988-1991

Report submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968

Addendum

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LATIN AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION (ALDHU)

(Category II)

A. General information

1. The Latin American Human Rights Association (ALDHU) is an international non-governmental organization which was founded in 1980 in Quito, Ecuador, in an extremely adverse regional context. Under these circumstances, the battle for human rights had two urgent and basic objectives: restoring democracy to South America and bringing peace to Central America.

2. The change in the regional situation, beginning in 1985, enabled ALDHU to expand its efforts. With the transition process under way in South America, and with Central America advancing in the search for peace, ALDHU assumed the task of promoting human rights in the broadest sense, in other words, not just civil and political rights, but also economic, social, cultural and people's rights.

B. Aims

3. The organization's basic aims are to promote and defend the enjoyment of human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean and to propose and sponsor peace initiatives and concerted efforts to ensure the effective implementation of global and regional international instruments which place States under an obligation to respect civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. It also seeks to promote and disseminate knowledge concerning the rights and guarantees embodied in international human rights instruments; to investigate, assess and take action in situations where human rights have been violated, in accordance with the provisions of its Statutes; and to support and coordinate the activities of national and regional human rights organizations.

C. Relations with international organizations

4. In respect of the United Nations, ALDHU is in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); in respect of the Organization of American States (OAS), it participates in meetings of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), and has been invited to take part in the meetings of various OAS executive bodies. Recently, ALDHU was admitted to membership of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA).

D. Activities

1. Activities carried out in 1988 by the Executive Secretariat of ALDHU at its headquarters in Quito

International meetings

- American meeting in solidarity with democracy in Chile;
- Parliamentary observer missions for the referendum in Chile;
- International meeting of the Organization of Military Personnel for Democracy, Integration and Freedom in Latin America and the Caribbean and a seminar on "Violence and democracy in Latin America";
- The award of the Monsignor Leonidas Proaño Prize to defenders of peace, justice and human rights.

Academic and research area

- Human rights training course in La Paz, Bolivia;
- Human rights training course in Ecuador;
- Project to harmonize human rights laws in the Andean region;
- Research on the status of human rights in Latin America.

Publications

- Manual de educación popular en derechos humanos (Grass-roots teaching manual on human rights);
- Derechos humanos en América Latina: Temas y debates (Human rights in Latin America: issues and debates);
- Democracia y derechos humanos en América Latina (Democracy and human rights in Latin America);
- Sociedad y derechos humanos (Society and human rights).

2. Activities carried out by the ALDHU Regional Directorate for the Southern Cone, Montevideo, Uruguay (1988)

Special events

- Reception for student exiles;
- Congress of young exiles;
- Meeting of women exiles;

- Uruguayan youth delegation to Chile for the referendum;

- Observance of the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Interinstitutional meetings

- Seminar on the returned exile;

- Seminar on mental health in Brazil.

International events

- International conference on solidarity with Chile;

- Psychosocial services for Chilean exiles in Uruguay.

Educational area

- Manual de educación popular en derechos humanos;

- Development of a basic human rights course.

Research area

Audiovisual production

Training of young exiles

- Computer training course;

- Workshop on slide-show production.

1989 and 1990

Programmatic theme: The promotion and consolidation of democracy and peace in Latin America.

Events

- "East-South dialogue: prospects and limits".

Research topics

- Drug trafficking and democratic stability;

- Mental health and the development of democratic societies;

- The current situation in Colombia and the prospects for peace.

Publications

- Insurgencia, democracia y dictadura (Insurgency, democracy and dictatorship).

Programmatic theme: The promotion of education and academic research in the field of human rights

- Seminar for the Ecuadorian national police on constitutional guarantees, law and order and human rights;

- Human rights training programme for the national police, held in Ecuador;

- Training course for persons monitoring education in the rights of the child, held in Ecuador;

- Human rights training course for teachers of courses on the justice system, held in Ecuador;

- Human rights education programme for indigenous people of Amazonia, held in Ecuador;

- Human rights training course for judges and magistrates, held in Ecuador;

- Human rights training course for the municipal police, held in Ecuador;

- Workshop I: "Human and trade-union rights", held in Ecuador;

- Seminar: "The university and human rights in Paraguay";

- Seminar: "Human rights in the current political process in Paraguay".

Research topics

- Experience with grass-roots education in human rights in the Andean region.

Publications

- El Rostro de Ramona Cuji (The face of Ramona Cuji);

- Manual de educación popular en derechos humanos, tercera edición (Grass-roots teaching manual on human rights, third edition);

- Cuaderno de formación de monitores en derechos del niño (Training notebook for persons monitoring education in the rights of the child.

Programmatic theme: The rights of selected social sectors in the region which have a high conflict potential

- National meeting of Chilean mothers: "The prospects for return and reintegration in Chile";

- National meeting on the penal system and penitentiary reform.

Research topics

- The migration of the Colombian border population to Ecuador because of internal war;

- Conclusion of the research concerning the displacement of the Colombian population which has been a victim of violence in Ecuador, and preparations for the programmatic phase;

- Exchanges of experience between Ecuador and Central America concerning policies of assistance for displaced persons;

- Programme of protection for abandoned children;

- Diagnosis of the structure, functioning and practice of the Ecuadorian penitentiary system, and proposals for reform;

- Judicial police.

Publications

- Prisiones: El estado de la cuestion (Prisons: status of the issue);

- Madres adolescentes (Teenage mothers).

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SERVICE, PEACE AND JUSTICE IN LATIN AMERICA

(Category II)

Aims

1. The aim of Service, Peace and Justice in Latin America (SERPAJ-AL) is to protect and promote human rights, in the civil and political as well as the social, economic and cultural spheres. For this purpose, it is active in 11 countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay), and has its regional headquarters in Guayaquil, Ecuador. Through its grass-roots activities, which involve some 15,000 people, the organization has direct links with poor neighbourhoods and peasant and indigenous communities. It also carries out activities with intermediate organizations, including trade unions, universities, political parties and churches. Its main work consists of educating and organizing for peace and human rights. It also collaborates with the inter-American human rights protection system (OAS and IACHR) and with UNESCO (category C). Since 1988, two new National Secretariats (Mexico and Paraguay) have been added, and in 1990 the General Assembly, which meets every four years, elected a new Latin American Coordinating Body (CLA), with Nelsa Curbelo (SERPAJ-AL Ecuador) as General Coordinator and Pablo Frederick (SERPAJ-AL Argentina) and Domingo Namuncura (SERPAJ-AL Chile) as Deputy Coordinators.

Cooperation with the United Nations

2. During the period under review, SERPAJ-AL representatives have attended and made oral reports at sessions of the Commission on Human Rights, especially under the agenda items on the right to development, enforced or involuntary disappearances, decolonization, violations of human rights in any part of the world, and the rights of the child. Written statements have also been submitted, either by SERPAJ-AL alone or together with other non-governmental organizations. It has also participated in a similar manner in the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (see E/CN.4/Sub.2/1990/NGO/10).

3. In 1991, SERPAJ-AL, in collaboration with other non-governmental organizations, began to work with two experts (Louis Joinet and El Hadji Guissé) who had been assigned to prepare a study of impunity and its consequences. SERPAJ-AL also collaborates in a special manner with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances by continually sending it information regarding complaints and analyses of such topics as impunity and the Latin American democracies.

4. SERPAJ-AL also collaborates, by means of oral and written statements, with the open-ended working group set up in November 1991 to consider the draft Declaration on the protection of all persons from enforced or involuntary disappearance, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Beatrice Le Frappeur.

5. In addition, SERPAJ-AL representatives in New York participate in the meetings of the Economic and Social Council.

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6. SERPAJ-AL has taken part in several United Nations seminars, including the Latin American Seminar on Human Rights, Democracy, Economic and Social Development, held in Santiago de Chile in September 1991.

7. It also participated in the NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine (Buenos Aires, February 1990).

8. SERPAJ-AL participated in the meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights. During the first of these meetings, held in September 1991, it submitted written communications requesting that certain items (i.e., on impunity, the circulation of information, financing and venue, economic and social rights) be included in the agenda of the Conference.

Other activities with the United Nations

9. SERPAJ-AL is in consultative status with UNESCO and, accordingly, participated in a Seminar on Human Rights, Democracy and the Mass Media (Buenos Aires, 16-17 December 1989), organized by SERPAJ-AL Argentina and sponsored by UNESCO, the proceedings of which were subsequently published.

10. In March 1990, the President of SERPAJ-AL, Adolfo Pérez Esquivel (who participates as a Nobel Peace Prize winner in UNESCO and United Nations activities) and its General Coordinator were specially invited to the UNESCO meeting of non-governmental organizations, held in Quito, Ecuador.

11. SERPAJ-AL is currently developing, in collaboration with UNESCO, a regional project of broad geographical and thematic scope, dealing with education for peace and human rights, which has been approved by the Director-General of UNESCO, Federico Mayor Zaragoza.

12. SERPAJ-AL participated officially in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. This included its participation in the preparatory meetings held in Paris in November 1991 and New York in March 1992, as well as a large attendance at the event itself.

13. SERPAJ-AL also took part in the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL), during which, in 1991, it initiated a support campaign for ONUSAL.

Communication with the United Nations Secretariat

14. SERPAJ-AL maintains ongoing communication with Secretariat officials, such as, the former Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights at Geneva, to whom it sends information.

15. With regard to the role played by SERPAJ-AL in cooperating with the United Nations on matters of general and special interest, it also communicates periodically with the Centre for Human Rights, the bureau of the World Conference on Human Rights and expert members of working groups, especially the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, to whom it sends

information and analyses. On 25 August 1989, a report on the status of disappearances in Argentina was sent to that Group.

Publications

16. The periodic publications of SERPAJ-AL, as well as its newsletter and information bulletins, are sent regularly to United Nations offices, especially the Headquarters at Geneva. Information is continually provided regarding United Nations activities and, in particular, the role which SERPAJ-AL plays in cooperating with the Organization. It is of vital importance to SERPAJ-AL to disseminate information concerning United Nations activities in the field of human rights and the impact which the Organization's periodic meetings can have. SERPAJ-AL maintains contact with the Organization, its staff and the specialized agencies in order to obtain information enabling it to explain the meaning of consultative status and the opportunities for cooperation between non-governmental organizations and the Organization, of which people are often unaware.

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF YOUNG CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS

(Category II)

Aims

1. The International Union of Young Christian Democrats (IUYCD) is a world-wide union of national youth organizations motivated by Christian Democratic and humanistic ideals, the basic aim of which is struggle through the development, in each country and throughout the world, of political and cultural activities in keeping with the values of Christian humanism.

2. IUYCD is committed to unswerving respect for human dignity and political, economic, cultural and social rights, as well as to peace, freedom and national and international social justice, independence and self-determination, and the solidarity of all peoples and States within the framework of a new international order.

3. IUYCD currently has 61 national member organizations, which represents an increase over the previous report. We have also diversified our funding sources, which are based primarily on contributions from national and regional organizations.

Events

4. During the period under review (1988-1991), IUYCD held a Congress (San José, Costa Rica, October 1991) and the following Political Committee meetings: Panama City (1988), Paris (1989), Pisa (1990), Venice (1991) and San José (1991). The following Executive Committee meetings were also held: Strasbourg (1988), Brussels (1989 and 1990), Paris (1990), Strasbourg (1991), Brussels (1991) and Geneva (1992).

5. During these meetings, various activities were planned at the international, regional and national levels in accordance with the above-mentioned aims, which are fully in keeping with the objectives of the United Nations, as they continually promote peace, cooperation, solidarity and the defence of human rights.

Other activities

6. We should like to mention, in particular, the event held in Paris in August 1989, during which 10,000 young people from all over the world celebrated, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, the two hundredth anniversary of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen.

7. The event, which received broad international support, including from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, reflected a broad effort of cooperation and collaboration with a wide range of youth organizations throughout the world.

8. We should also note the work carried out by our European organizations within the framework of cooperation and solidarity, especially in the area of leadership training in the emerging democracies of Central and Eastern Europe.

9. In Latin America, Africa and Asia, our organizations have endeavoured to support democratization processes, the search for dialogue and the resolution of all forms of armed conflict.

Publications

10. The following publications are issued on a quarterly basis:

(a) Bulletin JDCE;*

(b) IUYCD Newsletter;

(c) Boletín JDCA.**

The documents of the various events and Congresses are also issued regularly.

Lastly, IUYCD continually disseminates information concerning the various activities of the United Nations to all its regional and national organizations.

Commission on Human Rights

11. IUYCD has attended all the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights held during the period under review.

12. Oral reports have been given and documents have been submitted at these sessions, with special emphasis on violations of the human rights of children and young people in various parts of the globe.

13. At the same time, we have stated our views regarding:

- External debt;
- The status of minorities;

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* Jeunes Démocrates Chrétiens Européens (European Young Christian Democrats).

** Juventud Demócrata Cristiana de América (Christian Democratic Youth of America).

- The North-South dialogue in the search for an international order;

- The promotion of and search for peace;

- Environmental issues.